

# PRESS RELEASE

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COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

## For Immediate Release

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## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH TO OFFER EVENTS AND INITIATIVES TO MOVE COLORADO FORWARD

*The annual focus on job growth and business development celebrates 10 years*

(DENVER) -- Governor John Hickenlooper has declared September as Workforce Development Month in Colorado.

During the next four weeks, state and county run employment offices called Workforce Centers will partner with the Department of Labor and Employment to spotlight a variety of services and resources available to the state's 2.7 million men and women in the state's labor force and the 170,000 Colorado businesses that hire them.

Workforce Development Month began modestly in 2004 with a handful of events. Now in its tenth year, the annual series of events has grown to include a wide array of workshops, open houses, hiring events, employer seminars and online features.

Throughout September, Colorado's state and county-run Workforce Centers will be teaming with the Department of Labor and Employment to provide a variety of special activities, including:

- ***Innovative New Services:*** Web-based services will be launched soon as the Department of Labor and Employment introduces the Employer Toolkit, a feature that allows businesses to file wage reports, respond to job separations and pay unemployment premiums online.
- ***Job Fairs:*** Virtual job fairs will be held online to connect employers and job seekers in Colorado Springs, Rocky Ford, La Junta, Glenwood Springs, Weld County and Fort Morgan.

(More)

- ***Special Events:*** In the weeks ahead, Workforce Centers in Cortez, Durango and Trinidad will hold Customer Appreciation Day Open Houses and the Rocky Ford Workforce Center will stage an event to recognize the importance of the agriculture industry to their community.
- ***Workshops and Symposiums:*** The Larimer County Workforce Center will hold several workshops for employers during the month including its annual Workforce Symposium which will focus on critical strategies and tools to increase effectiveness in recruiting and retaining quality workers. This event will also cover 2014 health care issues for business owners and HR professionals.
- ***The Workforce of the Future:*** Construction Career Days will give high school students in Adams and El Paso counties opportunities to explore the construction trades. In late September, the Governor’s Summer Job Hunt will conclude its 33<sup>rd</sup> season with an awards reception to honor the exemplary teens and the businesses that hired them this summer.
- ***Strengthening Workforce Development Nationwide:*** In September, policy makers from across the country will convene in Denver as Colorado hosts the 77<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. At this event, workforce development professionals will share best practices and addresses the challenges ahead.

These are just some of the events taking place in September. Workforce Development Month will be filled with events and initiatives that showcase how the Department of Labor and Employment and Workforce Centers across Colorado can help businesses and workers succeed.

It is a time to focus on creating a stronger and more competitive Colorado. In his proclamation, Governor Hickenlooper notes that as the economic recovery gains traction, “workers, students, learning institutions, government agencies and employers be united to meet current and future labor needs by promoting communication and collaboration and offering educational opportunities to address the challenges ahead.”

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